

Appl. No. 09/915,481
Amendment in response to
Office Action mailed 11/06/2003

REMARKS


In the Office Action mailed 11/06/2003, the Examiner rejected claims 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. s. 112, second paragraph and rejected claims 9-18 under 35 U.S.C. s. 103(a) as unpatentable over Murray '802 in view of Bolton et al. Reconsideration of the objections is respectfully requested having regard to the following comments. Claims 9, 10, 11 and 15 have been amended. New claims 19 and 20 have been added. It is submitted that the amended claims patentably distinguish the prior art.

The Examiner points to Fig. 3-5 of Bolton et al. as disclosing that it is well known in the log sawing art to tilt a log-feeding means within approximately 7 degrees in order to roll the log in the desired direction or position for feeding thereof. However in Bolton the log is fed into and out of the scanning station transversely, at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the log and the tilt is in the direction of travel of the log. Indeed in Bolton the tilt of ramp 66 is the means of advancing the log in its line of travel. The conveyor chain 28 which feeds the log end-wise is not tilted in Bolton. Thus Bolton does not teach the tilting of a log-feeding means wherein the log is fed end-wise and the direction of tilt is perpendicular to the line of travel of the log. In the presently-claimed invention the log is fed end-wise and the log-feeding means are tilted in the direction perpendicular to the line of travel. Further the degree of tilt of ramp 66 in Bolton is clearly significantly greater than 7 degrees, since the purpose of the ramp 66 in Bolton is to advance the log transversely through the scanning station.

It is submitted therefore that one skilled in the art would not be led to modify Murray '802 by tilting the vertically oriented log-feeders and the associated horizontal feeder in Murray in a direction perpendicular to the end-wise line of travel of the log. It is submitted therefore that the amended claims are allowable, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

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 May 6, 2004